

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 07769 061300Z

46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 048338

R 061220Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6396

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 7769

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CB

SUBJ: EFFORTS TO AVOID CABINET CRISIS

1. ALTHOUGH ASSASSINATION OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND ONE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS HAS TEMPORARILY DAMPENED POLITICAL AGITATION IN PHNOM PENH, POLITICAL MALAISE CONTINUES, FUELED BY RESIGNATION OF FOUR REPUBLICAN CABINET MINISTERS AND ASSEMBLY CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO RESOLVED PROBLEMS (WHICH LARGELY ARE INSOLUBLE). RATHER THAN WAIT FOR THE POLITICAL CLIMATE TO DETERIORATE FURHTER, I CALLED ON SIRIK MATAK EARLY THIS MORNING (JUNE 6) AND ON MARSHAL LON NOL LATE THIS AFTERNOON TO MAKE THEM TAKE ACTIONS TO FORESTALL CABINET CRISIS.

2. I SAID TO BOTH OF THESE MEN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME THING: AT A TIME WHEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS ADMIRAL MOORER TESTIFIED BEFORE AMERICAN CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF LARGE AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO KHMER REPUBLIC, POLITICAL UNREST IN PHNOM PENH REFLECTED BY FALL OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MOST UNTIMELY AND UNDERMINE CAMBODIAN CAUSE IN U.S. I STRESSED THAT THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR SOCIO-REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICANS TO SURFACE THEIR PETTY DIFFERENCES. I APPEALED TO BOTH MEN TO MAINTAIN THE COALITION WHICH HAD BEEN SO PAINFULLY PUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 07769 061300Z

TOGETHER LAST YEAR. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT PRESENT GOVERN-

MENT HAS BEEN BEST REPUBLIC HAS HAD IN FACING UP TO MANY OF THE DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY THE WAR.

3. TO SIRIK MATAK I EMPHASIZED NEED FOR REPUBLICANS TO STAY IN THE CABINET--PERHAPS NOT THE SAME FACES BUT AT LEAST MEMBERS OF THAT PARTY. MARSHAL LON NOL TOLD ME THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER MY MEETING WITH SIRIK MATAK, LATTER WENT TO SEE MARSHAL TO INFORM HIM THAT REPUBLICANS ARE WILLING TO REMAIN IN THE GOVERNMENT. SIRIK MATAK ALSO PLEDGED HIS PERSONAL LOYALTY TO THE MARSHAL IN THESE TRYING DAYS.

4. MARSHAL LON NOL TOLD ME THAT HE IS MAINTAINING LONG BORET AS PRIME MINISTER BUT DEFUSING ASSEMBLY CARPING BY DROPPING SOME SELECTED MINISTERS, INCLUDING SOME NEW FACES AND CREATING MAYBE ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL CABINET POSITIONS. (THIS COINCIDES WITH WHAT LONG BORET TOLD ME YESTERDAY -- PHNOM PENH 7651.) IN ANY CASE, MARSHAL ASSURED ME HE WILL ACT QUICKLY AND THAT WHATEVER HE WILL UNDERTAKE IN THE POLITICAL ARENA WILL BE DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN THE COALITION BETWEEN SOCIO-REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICANS.

5. I ALSO SPOKE TO THE MARSHAL VERY BLUNTLY ABOUT HIS BROTHER'S RETURN TO PHNOM PENH. I CITED AP REPORT IN WHICH LON NON STATED HE PLANNED RETURN TO CAMBODIA. SINCE THIS CONFLICTED WITH WHAT MARSHAL HAD TOLD ME, I ASKED FOR EXPLANATION. MARSHAL REASSURED ME THAT LON NON WOULD NOT RETURN TO CAMBODIA AT THIS TIME AND AGREED THAT HIS APPEARANCE ON THE CAMBODIAN POLITICAL SCENE AT THIS STAGE WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE AN ALREADY DIFFICULT SITUATION.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, POLITICAL STABILITY, PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM07769
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740146-0200
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740669/aaaachhd.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EFFORTS TO AVOID CABINET CRISIS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005